

Updated Version of MAP for Science Frequently Asked Questions

In July 2013, NWEA released an updated version of Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) for Science assessments, aligned to your state standards. These new assessments measure student understanding of science concepts/processes within the context of science content, on a single scale – *General Science*.

This FAQ discusses the reasons behind the change, impacts of the change, and what action you need to take if your district wishes to opt out of using the new single scale science assessment during the 2013-2014 school year.

What is the change and what are the reasons behind this change?

Prior to this change, Science items were on two different scales: *General Science* and *Concepts & Processes*. Some items on the *Concepts & Processes* scale assessed science process skills that were not in the context of science content. For example, a student might be asked to classify pennies.

In the updated assessment, all Science items are on the *General Science* scale. Within this single scale, some items assess science content only and some assess science process skills in the context of science content, e.g. classifying rocks based on their physical properties. However, students will no longer see items that assess process skills that are not in the context of science content.

This change was precipitated by and reflects current research in science education (including the *NAEP 2009 Science Assessment Framework* and the *2012 A Framework for K-12 Science Education*) which emphasizes that learning about science requires integration of content knowledge and science processes. In addition, many states, such as Colorado and Kansas, have updated their Science standards to include the integration of science process and content. In this way, the updated MAP for Science assessments are more authentic to the way science is taught in the classroom.

In addition, these assessments are more efficient, taking less time to administer than the previous version.

What actions do I need to take?

- In order to receive access to the updated assessments for fall 2013, **no action is required** as your license had been updated automatically.

- However, if you prefer to continue using your current set of MAP for Science tests in the 2013-2014 school year instead of switching to the new version now, let us know.
- All partners will be required to move to the new MAP for Science assessments by fall of 2014.

Does this new version address all of my state standards? Are there areas that are not being covered by the new version?

The updated test continues to align to your state standards. Similar to previous tests, the full set of your state standards are addressed in this new version. Items designed to assess process within the context of science content (e.g., inquiry, nature of science, unifying concepts of science) are now located within one of the three goals of this new version of the science test (Earth and space science, physical science, or life science).

How does this impact me and my students?

- The updated version of MAP for Science, which consists of a single *General Science* test, is **available now**.
- The updated version of MAP for Science measures student understanding of science process skills and content in a single test. These assessments use the same scale, norms, and goal structures as the existing *General Science* assessments.
- Appropriate items from the *Concepts & Processes* scale (those assessing process in the context of the content) have been migrated to the *General Science* scale and are included in the updated tests as appropriate.
- Overall, test time is shorter for the updated version of MAP for Science — a 25-35% reduction approximately, as the result of this updated approach.
 - With the single scale science assessment, students see up to 45 items. The exact number of items included in the test may vary slightly by state. The two-scale version of MAP for Science, covering *Concepts & Processes* and *General Science*, consisted of about 65 items.
 - If you are currently using standalone *General Science* and *Science Concepts & Processes* tests, your students will no longer need to take the *Science Concepts & Processes* tests after you update to the new version of the test.

Is there impact on the types of questions that students see?

There is no impact on the types of questions the students see. Students see multiple-choice items and technology-enhanced items.

What happened to my historical *Concepts & Processes* test data after the migration?

- Historical *Concepts & Processes* test data continues to be included in your reports under the *Concepts & Processes* subject after you update to the single-scale version of MAP for Science.
- DesCartes learning statements for all historical *Concepts & Processes* test events continue to be available via the Class Breakdown by Subject report after you update to the single-scale version.

How does this affect the growth and status norms?

There is no impact on growth and status norms. For the updated test, you can reference the *General Science* norms for growth projection and percentiles rank.

How does this affect growth reports?

Since the updated science test utilizes the *General Science* scale, only the *General Science* test data is used to measure growth between academic years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Your 2012-2013 *Concepts & Processes* test data continues to be available in your historical reports.

Can I reference our state's Science Linking Study after updating to the single-scale version?

Since *General Science* test event data was used in all of our Science Linking Studies, you may continue to reference your state's Science Linking Study. If there are multiple tables for science in your state's Linking Study, the updated test should reference the *General Science* table.